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and Greek texts from the monastery. The cost of publication of these volumes is being met through an appropriation made by the Trustees, supplemented by a contribution from Mr. Harkness.

Again Mr. Harkness, by a most generous offer, has recently made possible the immediate publication of three volumes relating to the Monasteries of the Wady Natrûn. An elaborate study into the history of these structures has been carried out over several years past by certain members of the Expedition assigned to the task. This study has also included a record, through photographs and drawings, of

their architectural and decorative features.

The publication of this work, which Mr. Harkness' munificent gift has now rendered possible, will be comprised in two volumes—the text by H. G. Evelyn White, the photographic plates by Henry Burton, with architectural drawings by W. J. Palmer-Jones and Walter Hauser. A third volume, by Evelyn White, deals with newly found manuscripts discovered by him in the years 1920 and 1921 in a storeroom of one of these monasteries, that of Saint Macarius, as announced in the report of the Expedition last year. A. M. LYTHGOE.

EXCAVATIONS AT LISHT

THERE are certain aspects of a digger's life which may be well described—like the cynic's definition of second marriages—as the triumph of hope over experience. He has learnt, or should have learnt, by repeated experience in the past that he is not in the least likely to find things in places where he expects to find them, and that in nine cases out of ten it will be the chance strike in the unexpected place that will repay his labor, and yet—confront him with the bricked-up doorway of an untouched burial, and despite himself he will begin to plan exhibition space in the museum for the treasure that ought to lie behind it. He dare not, moreover, leave anything to chance. There are exceptional cases—witness the Dashur princesses and their jewelry—and this may be one of them; so he spends valuable time photographing the door-blocking and taking it down with his own hands, to find the treasure resolve itself into a couple of pottery jars and a cheap string of beads. Unplundered burials may be interesting enough from an archaeological point of view, but for museum purposes they rarely, or comparatively rarely, contain anything of value. The reason is simple enough. They are unplundered because they were not considered worth plundering. Tomb robbing in ancient Egypt was systematic and thorough, and a rich burial stood but a very small chance of remaining undisturbed. Indeed, had he

but realized it, the Egyptian who prepared a very elaborate outfit for his use in the next world was by that very means endangering his own chances of future existence at all. Content with a simple, shallow grave, his body would probably have remained, for several thousand years at any rate, undisturbed; in a massive, imposing tomb, with every conceivable need amply provided for, it was practically marked down for destruction, and himself therefore to the fate he most feared—extinction. That this wholesale plundering was actually contemporary is amply proved. If we had nothing else to go upon we should be justified in assuming it, from the fact that it is in general the plundered rather than the virgin grave that produces the objects which are worth while. The tomb robbers, we should say, must have had definite knowledge as to which graves were worth robbing and which were not. As it happens, however, we have no need to fall back on assumptions, for we have very definite evidence that in some cases they not only knew exactly where to go, but had actually taken steps before the funeral to facilitate their designs. One instance in particular recurs vividly to my mind: it made the more impression on me because it happened in my first year's work in Egypt, and was my first experience of ancient burial graft. In excavating a large and important mastaba tomb we found both passage and

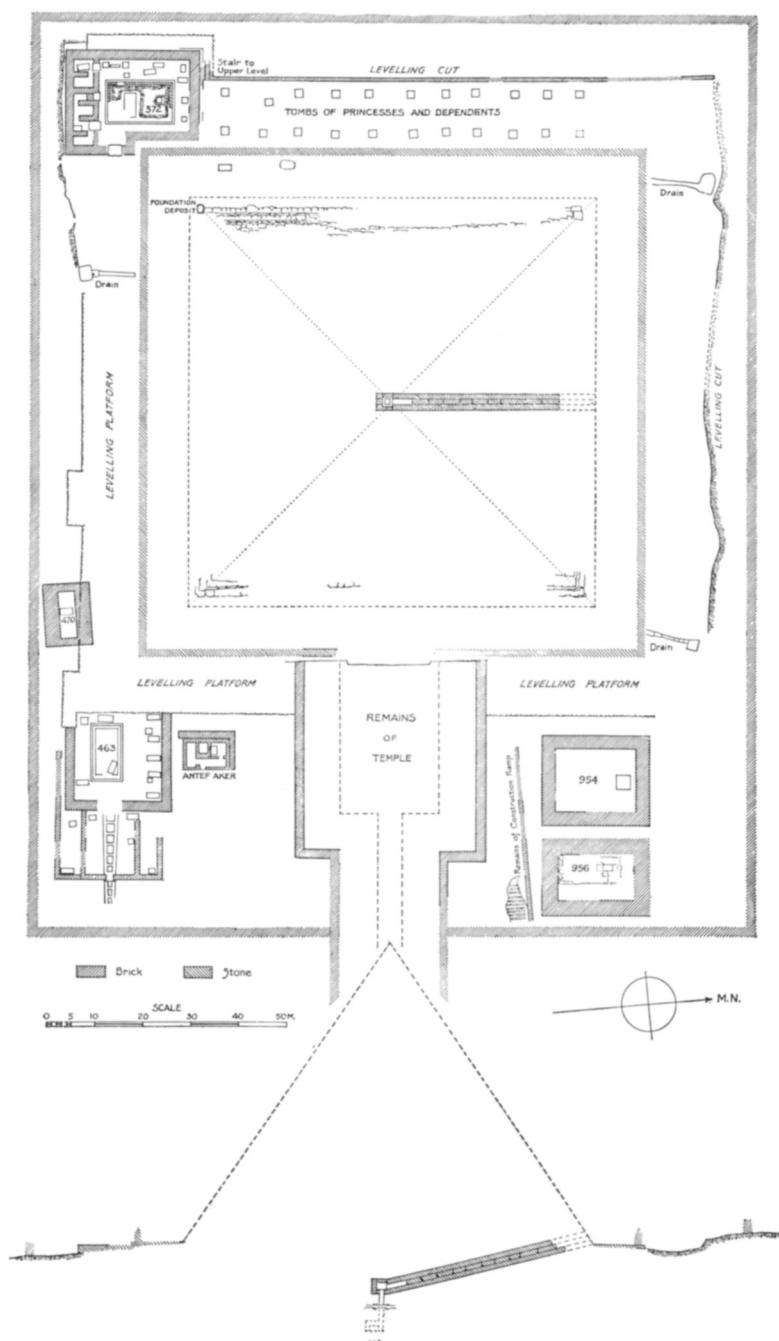


FIG. 1. GROUND PLAN AND SECTION OF THE PYRAMID AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

burial-chamber undisturbed, and on the far side of the chamber, sunk in the floor, a massive stone sarcophagus with the lid still in position. It was quite certain that we were the first to set foot in the burial-chamber since the body had been placed in the coffin some four thousand five hundred years ago, and we were surely justified in believing that in this case a rich treasure awaited us. With some difficulty we re-

moved a very few days of the funeral. The tunnel was ready. The robbers had but to break through the bottom of the coffin itself, and the treasure was in their hands. There is evidence, too, of burial deposits having been stolen, or worthless substitutes put in their place, either during or shortly preceding the funeral ceremonies. I remember one particularly glaring case of this method of graft, in which a small box, corded and sealed, and ostensibly containing jewelry or toilet articles, was found when opened to be stuffed with rough chunks of wood.

So much for the contemporary plunderer and his pleasant little ways. They are well illustrated by the past season's work at Lisht, and that is why I have devoted so much attention to them. Several instances were found of bricked-up chambers which had been left severely alone, to reveal only too clearly the reason of their immunity when opened. In another case the burial in a pit chamber had been plundered right out, but in order to get at it the plunderers must have stood upon a couple of coffins which were deposited in the pit at the same level as the chamber. In these the burials were completely undisturbed: one contained nothing, and the other a single scarab. The most striking illustration was afforded by Mastaba No. 954, situated immediately north of the pyramid temple area (see fig. 1). The ground had been nibbled at in previous years' excavations, but it seemed to consist entirely of hard packed chip from the pyramid, and the mastaba might easily have been missed altogether. Of superstructure proper no trace remained, and of the brick enclosure wall nothing but the foundation courses. At the north end of this enclosure was situated a great square shaft, so much larger than any other we have found that at first we hesitated to believe that it could be a burial-pit. The workmen who were digging it had no doubts at all upon the subject. Excited by the unusual size of the shaft, they readily hypnotized themselves into the belief that a correspondingly large treasure was concealed below, and the work progressed with amazing speed. Some three meters down came the first check, for in a large area of the shaft we struck bot-

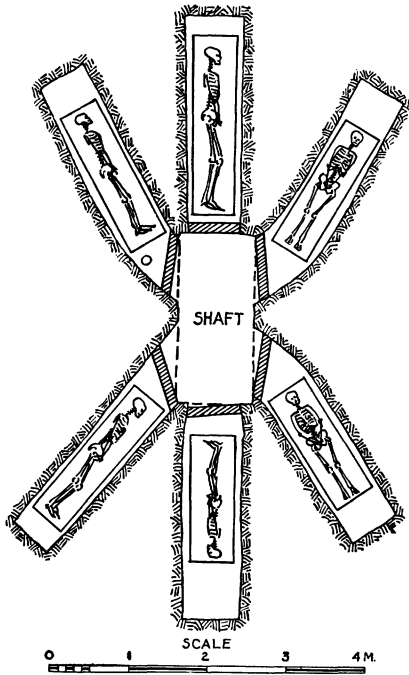


FIG. 2. UNDERGROUND CHAMBERS
MASTABA 954

moved the heavy lid and looked in—to find a few broken bones, and the mouth of a plunderer's passage leading out from the bottom of the sarcophagus. Now here was a tunnel, starting outside the mastaba area, carried down to a vertical depth of twenty-five feet, and leading straight to the sarcophagus, without touching the burial-chamber at all. Clearly it was the work of men who knew the exact lay-out of the mastaba, and it is more than probable that it was planned and excavated by the foreman in charge of the tomb construction. The robbery in this case took place within

tom. Working toward the southwest corner, however, we came presently upon the entrance to a narrow passage, sloping southwards at an acute angle. The clearing of this passage presented difficulties, as the gradient was too steep for the basket boys to be able to keep their footing. This we got over by inserting a rope ladder and stationing boys at intervals upon the rungs to pass the baskets along. Boy after boy was added as the passage lengthened, till at last we had some ten or a dozen strung out upon the ladder, reaching one to the other and passing out the baskets in an astonishingly steady stream. Great fun they seemed to find it, too, and as one flashed a lamp down the passage the impression one got was of a chain of grins, a gleam of white teeth receding gradually into darkness. At an early stage of the proceedings it became manifest that we were not to find an untouched burial. Scattered collar and bracelet beads were found all through the filling of the passage, and about half-way down we came on a perfectly magnificent amethyst scarab, a foretaste this latter of the class of material we might hope to find if we succeeded in getting into the chamber. Unfortunately, at Lisht, this particular "if" is by no means a negligible quantity owing to the nearness of subsoil water, and in all the deeper pits the question of chamber first or water first becomes a matter of anxious speculation. In this case, as so often before, water won the day. Buckets were substituted for baskets in a final effort to gain an entrance, but the pressure of water was too great. For the moment we had to acknowledge defeat.

The mastaba had by no means done with us yet, however. Returning to the main shaft we made a careful clearance of the whole floor, and found, what had hitherto escaped our notice, that on the east side there was the entrance to another burial-pit—a vertical one this time, and, to all appearance, still containing its original filling. To it once more with renewed vigor, the late disappointment completely forgotten—by the workmen at any rate. The sloping passage had turned out a *kbaṭug*—a vulgar Arabic word meaning a kick scientifically delivered and, from an anatomical point of

view, thoughtfully directed—but this was to be the real thing. In view of past experiences I preserved an even mind myself, or at any rate tried to persuade myself that I did, and avoided that part of the work as much as possible. Two days later I was busy elsewhere when I noticed the head man of this particular gang hovering about in the mysterious and furtive manner that an Egyptian workman always adopts when he has anything important to tell you, and



FIG. 3. BURIAL IN ONE OF THE CHAMBERS

was informed that they had found no less than six bricked-up chambers, all on the same level, with the shaft still descending below them. This was rather more than I had bargained for. One burial was what I wanted, that of the owner of the tomb's wife: six together were much less likely to be productive. In any case there was plenty for a camera to do, so down we went, and I set to work. Photographing the door blockings in the contracted space available was not easy, but we accomplished it at last, and then we were able to take them down and investigate the burials behind. The first sight was not encouraging. In one chamber two pottery jars and a bowl were visible, and in another

a single jar; otherwise, in each of the chambers, nothing but a crumbling mound of wood which had once represented a coffin.

gan. This was complicated by the terrible condition to which the coffins had been reduced. In one or two cases it was possi-

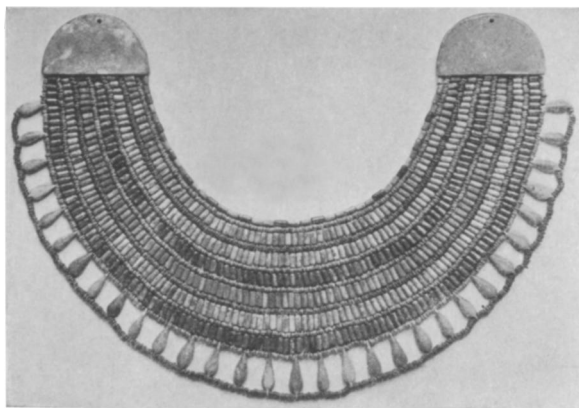


FIG. 4. BEAD COLLAR FROM MASTABA 954

The chambers, which were small and low, just large enough to accommodate the coffin, were oddly arranged, those opening out of the sides of the shaft being twisted violently round, two to the north and two to the south, in an heroic effort to conform with the correct ritualistic position (see fig. 2). The Egyptian of this period, whose mummy was laid other than in a north-south position, with its head to the north, would have his chances of happiness in the future world grievously compromised, and it was unfortunate, after all the trouble taken to avert such a calamity, that one of our mummies should have had its coffin put into the chamber wrong way round, so that its feet rested where its head should have been.

Each of the chambers was photographed after the door blocking had been removed—the photograph in fig. 3 shows one of them—and then the work of clearing be-

ble to remove the wood piecemeal, but in the others it crumbled at the touch, covering the body with a thick pall of dust which could only be removed by brush or bellows. Two of the coffins had been inscribed. One bore the name of the lady Sat-sebek: the other had been bought from an undertaker's stock, and the space where the name should come had never been filled up. So far the clearing of these six untouched burials had entirely borne out the somewhat pessimistic theory of digging with which this article opens. Like the Irishman's sale of cattle, they had not produced, as we knew

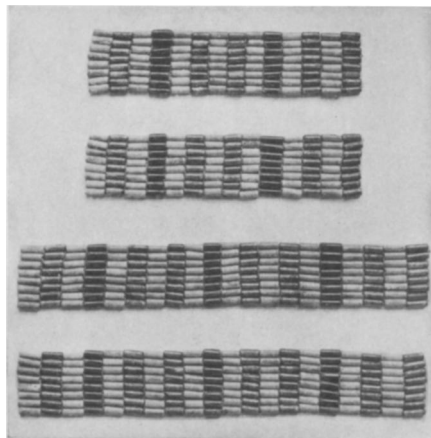


FIG. 5. BEAD BRACELETS AND ANKLETS

they wouldn't, anything like as much as we had expected them to. They were not, however, to prove entirely barren, for three out of the six burials were equipped with elaborate bead collars, bracelets, and anklets (see figs. 4 and 5), and two of the remaining three had single string

THE EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION 1921-1922

necklaces. Very careful work was needed at this point in order to establish the general nature and exact order of stringing of

valueless beads.¹ A full week these six burials took in clearing, and then at last we were ready to investigate deeper, where



FIG. 6. "SACRED EYE" NECKLACE, ETC.

this mass of bead-work. The threads of course had vanished, and the beads were sadly scattered, but with the aid of bellows and tweezers it was possible to lay bare small sections of collar, bracelet, or anklet, and to transfer them bead by bead to a sheet of cardboard on which a thin layer of plasticine had been spread. A tedious and back-breaking operation it proved. Picture it to yourself. You squat in a cramped position for hours in a dark underground chamber, unable either to sit upright or to straighten out your legs; by the light of a guttering candle you attempt to solve the relation of a dozen twisting and overlapping strings of beads; you get insufferably hot and incredibly bad tempered; and you emerge finally with your eyes choked and your throat coated with acrid coffin dust. It's not pleasant, but it's thoroughly worth while, for by going to this trouble you not only satisfy your own archaeological conscience, but you secure for the Museum a series of complete objects in place of a few handfuls of more or less

we still hoped the tomb-chamber of the wife might lie. Two meters down came the news, "six more blocked chambers, exactly like the upper ones, and the pit still goes down." This was carrying things a bit far. As the Frenchman remarked, "A little is a good thing, but too much is enough." However, down I had to go, into chambers getting a little damp this time, to struggle with more beads. Like the upper layer, this level of chambers produced three complete sets of collars, bracelets, and anklets, but one of the burials gave us something better, in the shape of a very delicate little necklace of tiny "sacred eyes," gold, amethyst, and carnelian (fig. 6).



FIG. 7.
ROYAL STATUETTE
OF UNBAKED CLAY

These chambers finished, we were ready to go down once more, and see what further surprises the pit might have in store for us. It provided one soon enough in the shape of

¹The re-stringing of these collars, etc., provided evening occupation for us throughout the rest of the season. It was a slow business. There were upwards of three thousand beads in each collar, and each individual bead had to be handled three or four times.

yet another bead-equipped burial, this time in the open shaft. Below this again, and only just above water level, came the greatest surprise of all, and the final one—six more chambers, exactly like the upper ones in arrangement, but empty and unused. Why the makers of the tomb should have taken the trouble to excavate six chambers at the bottom of a sixteen meter shaft and then not use them is a mystery.

remained to be done. The effect of this miscalculation was that the end of our budget found us at several points still well above XII dynasty level. The results of the season naturally suffered, but it was all work that had to be done, and in the coming winter we shall reap the benefit.

We shall get a clear idea of the lie of the land generally, and be able to explain better the work that still remains to be done, if



FIG. 8. GENERAL VIEW OF THE WORK IN PROGRESS ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE PYRAMID

It would doubtless have given them a good deal of satisfaction to know that some four thousand years later they were to bring off a gigantic hoax at the expense of the modern digger.

So much for Mastaba 954. Now what of the work generally? Owing to a miscalculation, error of judgment—call it what you will—it was somewhat less prolific of results than in former years. We began the season with the ambitious and, as it proved, too optimistic idea of finishing the whole of the northern end of the site. For this purpose we took on a gang of over four hundred men and boys and started top-clearing at all the points at which work still

we refer to the plan of the pyramid and its dependencies in fig. 1. In the first place it will be noticed that surrounding the actual pyramid there are three enclosure lines. Nearest the pyramid we get the stone enclosure wall, marking off a space reserved absolutely for the king himself. Next comes a line supplied by the leveling of the ground for constructional purposes—on the west and north a cut in the side of the hill, and on the south and east a built-up wall. Three sides of this second enclosure were likewise sacrosanct; the fourth, that on the west, was kept for the tombs of the royal family—Mastaba 372 and the lines of pits extending northwards from it. The outer-

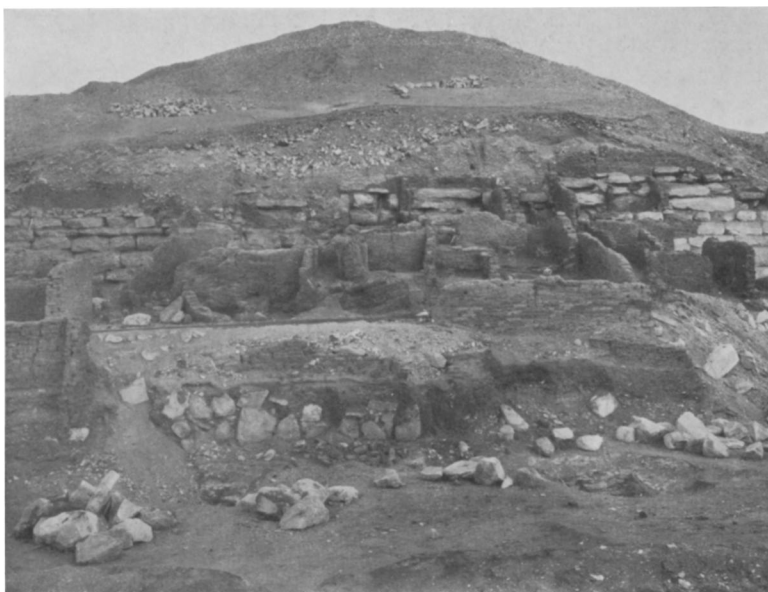


FIG. 9. GENERAL VIEW OF THE WORK AT A LATER STAGE, SHOWING
HOUSES BUILT AGAINST THE PYRAMID



FIG. 10. GENERAL VIEW OF THE WEST SIDE OF THE
PYRAMID AT THE CLOSE OF THE WORK

most enclosure wall, of brick, marked off a space reserved for the tombs of particularly favored members of the court, two on either side of the temple, one on the east side, and one on the south. Of this complete area the north and south sides are finished, so far at least as we think it profitable or necessary to go. There still remains for next season (1) a section at the north end of the west side; (2) the space on the high level behind the temple, between the platform wall and the face of the pyramid, in which there may possibly be remains of an

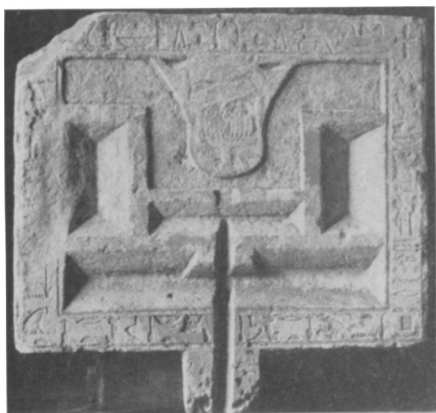


FIG. 11. LIMESTONE OFFERING-TABLE

upper shrine; (3) a considerable area north of the temple causeway, and eastwards from Mastaba 956.

The first and most important task in the work of the past season was to complete the clearance of the west side of the pyramid. Readers of the last Expedition number of the BULLETIN² may remember that in excavations of the previous year the clearance of the southern half of the area had brought to light a double row of burial-pits, arranged symmetrically in pairs, one row belonging to members of the king's family, and the other to their servants and dependents. It seemed likely that these rows of pits would extend the whole length of the pyramid, and there was always a chance that one of them might have escaped the plunderers. One thing was quite certain, and that was that no

one but the most determined of modern plunderers would have a chance of getting into them. Fig. 8 shows the work in progress, and gives an idea of the prodigious amount of material that had to be moved. First came several feet of chip, disintegrated stone, and blown sand; next came the mud-brick buildings of the later occupation of the site; and below these again there was a thick and most disheartening layer of heavy stones, broken blocks thrown out and rolled down by pre-village quarriers, who must have started the work of destruction within a comparatively few years of the king's death and the sealing up of his pyramid. Fig. 9 shows an intermediate stage in the clearing, a group of mud-brick huts built against the side of the ruined pyramid, and in fig. 10 we get the final stage, in which the clearing has been carried right down to XII dynasty level. On the left of this last picture the two rows of burial-pits are visible. Eleven additional pits were cleared this year, four of the royal and the remainder of the multiple burial type, but in every case they had been thoroughly ransacked anciently, a few beads only remaining to show the exquisite quality of the material they had originally contained. One, or possibly more, of this series of pits still remains to be opened up next year.

Confirmation of the fact that these pits were the burial-places of the princesses was supplied by a small fragment of stone found loose in the filling above, which gave the name of "the Royal Daughter Neferu," or possibly "Neferu-shera." Re-used in a house at the southwest corner of the pyramid there was another historically interesting piece—the limestone offering-table shown in fig. 11, dedicated to a certain "Royal Mother Nefert." This Nefert must presumably have been the mother of Amenemhat I. Nothing has hitherto been known of his parentage, and it is perhaps significant that Nefert has no other royal title, for he founded a new dynasty, and therefore might very well have come of non-royal stock. The name is a common enough one at the period. The queen of Senusert II was also a Nefert, but she was of the blood royal, and

²Published in November, 1921.

THE EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION 1921-1922

is given the title "Royal Daughter" in addition to that of "Royal Wife." While dealing with royalties we may perhaps

buildings and reused in the pyramid. Two of them are shown in the illustrations. One (fig. 12) gives a number of interesting



FIG. 12. OLD KINGDOM BLOCK OF RELIEF REUSED IN THE PYRAMID CONSTRUCTION

mention here the statuette of unbaked clay in fig. 7. It has a crown, and is certainly meant to represent a king, but what a queer figure it is. There is no evidence of date, as it was found in surface clearing a considerable distance westwards from the pyramid: it may belong to the town period of occupation, or again it may have been fashioned in an idle moment by one of the craftsmen who were employed in the construction of the pyramid. It certainly cannot have been made as a serious piece of work to the king's order, or for his temple.

As in former years, the work yielded a number of blocks of Old Kingdom relief, several of them bearing cartouches of Khufu, which had been stolen from earlier

details with regard to the rigging of an Egyptian ship, the other (fig. 13) a very pleasing and lifelike portrait of a billy-goat, looking, as all billy-goats do, for all the world like a fraudulent company promoter handing round the plate in church.



FIG. 13. PORTRAIT OF A GOAT FROM OLD KINGDOM RELIEF

In the course of the work, especially on the west side, we laid bare a great number of mud-brick houses of the later village, which, as readers of former articles will remember, had sprung up among the ruins of the pyramid.

Fig. 9 shows a group of them, built against the pyramid's west side, and in fig. 14 we get a nearer view, showing a staircase leading to an upper story. A queer haphazard complex of buildings this village must have been, with walls at any angle,

houses of no conceivable kind of plan, and narrow passages for streets that seemed as often as not to end in

streets and houses of consistent design. The reason for the difference is obvious enough. Each of the towns mentioned



FIG. 14. HOUSE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE PYRAMID, WITH A STAIRCASE TO AN UPPER STORY

somebody's private courtyard—as great a contrast as you could imagine to other Egyptian town sites that have been re-

was a royal one, laid out to the king's order on a definite plan: ours was a country village which just grew. You can

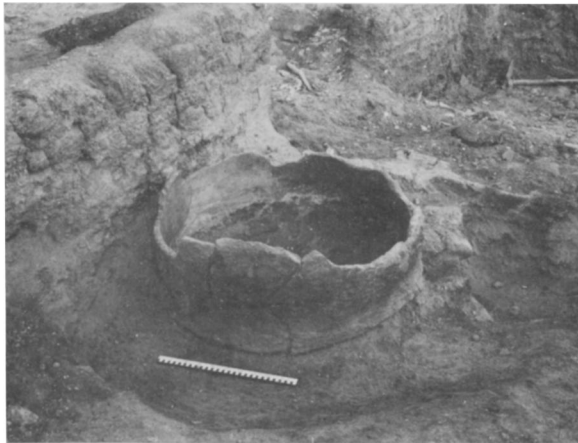


FIG. 15. REMAINS OF A BREAD OVEN FROM THE ANCIENT VILLAGE

corded. Tell el Amarna, for example, the workmen's town at Kahun, the dependencies of Amenhotep's palace at Thebes—all these are laid out in accurately squared plan, with regular right-angled

see its exact counterpart in many an Egyptian village of today, the same mud-brick houses promiscuously and precariously built, the same winding, aimless streets, the same billeting of livestock on the family

at night; and you can doubtless smell the same smells, and endure the same torment of flies and—well, other things. Apart from language the modern fellah would feel perfectly at home in our ancient village, and find but little to remind him that he had made a backward step of thirty centuries. This is a fact that the excavator does well to remember, for, in dealing with house remains, he will not infrequently find that what is a puzzle to him is an every-day fact of life to his workmen. A number of instances could be quoted: one is illustrated in figs. 15 and 16. The first shows the lower part of a bread-oven found in the ancient village; the second an oven of identical type, actually in use in the modern village today.

Much additional information was recovered in the present year's work, and there is no doubt that when we combine it with the results of previous years, and have time to make a really careful study of the mass of material that we have collected, we shall be able to present a tolerably complete picture of ancient village life. One of the new points of this year concerns the beehive-shaped storage chambers of brick or mud, which were constructed beneath the floor of certain of the houses. The chambers were in some cases as much as ten feet deep, their only means of ingress a narrow man-hole at the top, and it was always a puzzle to me how their owners managed to get in and out of them. Fig. 17 gives the explanation, as far as one of them at least is concerned: a forked branch of a tree was built into the sides of the structure half-way down, and provided a solid step, which I found of practical use myself when I went inside to note and plan. Beneath the floor of another house—at the southeast corner of the pyramid—we found a cache of copper bowls, very similar to the one which turned up in a previous year on the north side.³ Fig. 20 shows the bowls nested as they were found, and in fig. 18 we have the group after they had been separated. With them there was a copper mirror, set into a massive ivory handle (fig. 19).

The ordinary village material—tools, ag-

³ See BULLETIN, October, 1908.

ricultural implements, and the like—of which we find such quantities on every



FIG. 16. THE SAME TYPE OF BREAD OVEN IN USE TODAY

part of the site, has been sufficiently discussed in previous articles. One object, however, we cannot refrain from mentioning, for it carries us straight back through



FIG. 17. BRANCH BUILT INTO A SILO TO ACT AS A STEP

the centuries to join a child at play. A rough box of pottery the object was, found just below the surface in the neighborhood of one of the houses. A flat lid kept the contents safe, and within there was a child's

toy, an indiscriminate kind of animal, of unbaked clay and with bead eyes, carefully wrapped in cloth to imitate a mummy (fig. 21). A game, yes, but what a characteristically Egyptian one, for the child was playing coffins. How it would have delighted its heart to know that the excavator of so many thousand years later would solemnly carry on the game, photographing the coffin, and devoting just as much care to the unwrapping of the toy animal as he would have done to a really and truly mummy!

beauty of the White Crown, Ana." This queen probably lived in the XIII dynasty, but her exact position is not known. Several of her scarabs exist.

- (5) "The Royal Sealer and Chief Steward, Mentuhetep." Probably XIII dynasty.
- (6) "May a royal offering be granted. . . to the Ka of the Guardian of the Storehouse, Ay (?)." XIII-XIV dynasty.
- (7) "The . . . , Senaa-ab." XII-XIII dynasty. The name occurs on several



FIG. 18. COPPER BOWLS FOUND IN A NEST AS SHOWN IN FIG. 20

Scarabs were plentiful. Eight of the more important named ones are given in fig. 22. They read as follows—

- (1) "The good god, Kha-nefer-re, begotten of the Divine Father Ha-an-khef." King Sebekhetep III of the XIII dynasty.
- (2) "The good god, Mer-nefer-re." King Ay of the XIII dynasty. This is the third scarab of Ay that has turned up in the neighborhood of Amenemhat's pyramid.
- (3) "Suaz-en-re." A king of the XIV dynasty. A similar scarab of his was found in the excavations of the previous year.
- (4) "The Chief Royal Wife, united to the

other scarabs, but the titles in each case are different (see Newberry, Scarabs, XIV, 6 and 7; Petrie, Scarabs, 12 AJ).

- (8) "The Royal Sealer, Chief Steward and Royal Attendant, Heru-hetep." XIII-XIV dynasty. Two other scarabs of the same man are known (see Newberry, *op cit.*, XVII, 4; Petrie, *op cit.*, 12 B D).

The season was rendered memorable in another way by the unusual number of accidents on the work. The most serious happened in the first half hour of the very first day, a man losing his footing at the top of a thirty-foot shaft and falling sheer. Fortunately the bottom of the shaft was

THE EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION 1921-1922

covered with a layer of blown sand, or he must inevitably have been killed: as it was, he escaped with a slight injury to his spine. Another accident, less serious in its results to the person concerned, involved the rest of us in a rather amusing experience. In the middle of an afternoon's work a certain amount of confusion was caused by a basket boy being knocked over by one of the light railway trucks. It happened that



FIG. 19. COPPER MIRROR WITH IVORY HANDLE

at the time there were some women in the modern cemetery nearby, and one of them, seeing the excitement on the work, and seizing the opportunity of achieving a little cheap notoriety for herself, rushed down to the village screaming, "The pyramid has fallen down, and all the men are killed!" Within thirty seconds the village was buzzing like a hive of angry bees. There was hardly a house in it that had not at least one representative on the work, so the entire female population turned out and

set sail for the pyramid. Hearing the noise I looked down toward the village and saw a wonderful sight. First, like a cloud of skirmishers, came the women of the outlying houses, screaming, waving their



FIG. 20. NEST OF COPPER BOWLS AS FOUND

arms, and throwing sand into the air; behind them, swarming from every corner, pouring down all the streets and wading through the canal, came the main body; and in the distance, almost as far as one could see, dropping their work in the fields and streaming along the canal banks, came hurrying the stragglers. As a spectacle it was wonderful, and I enjoyed it until I realized that I might presently be cast

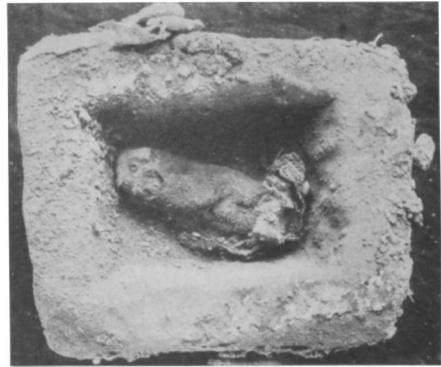


FIG. 21. CHILD'S TOY BURIED IN A POTTERY BOX

for a leading rôle in it myself. It was clearly time to do something, so I sent hasty messengers to explain to the ladies what had happened, and head them off. Head them off, indeed! They were much too excited, and some of them were enjoy-

ing themselves much too much, to listen to reason; so up they swarmed to the edge of the work, formed themselves into a close and vociferous fringe all round it, and really let themselves go. The boys on the work were having a thoroughly enjoyable time while all this was going on, and the men also for a time, but it gradually filtered through to the latter's brains that their wives might possibly be making an exhibition of themselves. "Let us go," said three or four of them to me, "and reason with these cattle, and send them home again." They went; they reasoned; but I am bound to own that in the exceedingly noisy duel of words that ensued the cattle got the best of it. However, by slow degrees things calmed down, and the crowd began to disperse, though not until each woman had satisfied herself with her own eyes that her own particular Ahmed or

Mohammed was safe. Meanwhile the innocent cause of the commotion had been carried to the house, and given first aid for a crushed toe by Mr. Nixon. Next morning we sent him in to a hospital in Cairo, and he returned a week or so afterwards as lively as a cricket.

Mr. Hall, as in former years, was responsible for plans and drawings, and a busy time he had of it with four hundred men and boys turning up house walls in every direction. Mr. Hauser was also with us for three weeks, and he and Mr. Hall made a general survey of the whole Lisht area. Mr. Nixon divided his time between the two camps. While with us he kept accounts with one hand and threaded beads with the other, and for recreation acted as surgeon and consultant doctor to the entire staff of workmen.

A. C. MACE.



FIG. 22. GROUP OF SCARABS WITH ROYAL AND PRIVATE NAMES